

MAYOR'S ADVISORY BOARD ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1st HEARING – February 5, 2013

Members of the Advisory Board present: Andrea Wellnitz, Jason Tennenhouse, Monica Waters and Richard Shockley. Also present: Mayor John Dennis, Department of Development staff Chandler Poole and Dale Dixon, City Council members, Ann Hunt, and Gerald Thomas. Representatives from local public service agencies were also in attendance.

In the absence of Chairman Bossung, Dale Dixon chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Dennis thanked the public service agencies for their service and contribution to our community. He stated this is an opportunity for the City to provide assistance to the public service agencies. Mayor Dennis commented that over the years, the grant amount has declined, however we as a community are trying to do what we can to assist the public service agencies in these difficult economic times. The Mayor requested a clear, concise description of the activity for which the funding is being requested. He also expressed his appreciation to the Advisory Board for their time and commitment.

Advisory Board members introduced themselves. Public service agency representatives were asked to provide their names and the agency they are representing at the beginning of their presentations.

OLD BUSINESS

Dale Dixon noted that even without Mr. Bossung, the members present constitute a quorum and allows us to conduct business. Richard Shockley moved to approve the March 8, 2012 minutes. Jason Tennenhouse seconded. The minutes were approved as written 4-0.

There was no further old business.

NEW BUSINESS

All Advisory Board members were previously provided with a Performance Review for the program year 2011-2012 and a Progress Report covering July 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012. The reports summarized how grant funds were spent over the 18 month period. Dale Dixon noted the information is also available on the City's website and in the Department of Development. The Executive Summary as submitted in the 2011 CAPER was also provided for review. Questions and comments were requested.

Dale Dixon explained the Order of Presentation indicates last year's grant amount and this year's request for each entity. HUD maximum allowable expenditures for Public Service (15% of grant) and Administration (20% of grant) were also listed. The bulk of the grant is designated for housing and capital improvements. For planning purposes, last year's grant amount of \$382,549 was used. He stated the public service proposals will be heard in the order in which they were received.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Dale Dixon stated the **Department of Development** is not requesting any additional funding for the 2013-2014 program year. General Program Administration funds on hand from previous years are sufficient to cover 2013 expenses. This allows funding that would have been designated to administration to be directed to housing and capital improvement projects.
2. Ben Anderson spoke on behalf of the City of West Lafayette **Engineering Department** which requested \$255,000 for the **Sidewalk/Curb Replacement & Curb Ramp Installation Program**. The funds will be used to replace deteriorating sidewalk and curb and install curb ramps at all intersections on East Oak Street between Salisbury and Robinson, sidewalk repairs on Maple Street from Stadium to Lutz and Lutz Avenue from Salisbury to Littleton.
3. The City of West Lafayette **Parks Department** Assistant Superintendent Penny Ainsworth requested \$75,000 to address ADA compliance issues at the Morton Community Center in coordination with the City's ADA Transition Plan. Modifications will meet the needs of an assumed clientele.
4. Lynn Layden, chairperson for the **West Lafayette Tree Fund** requested \$6,000 for the planting of 30 1.5" shade trees between the curb and sidewalk on Lawn and East Oak. The funds will be used to replace trees that were removed during recent curb and sidewalk installation at this location.
5. Dawn Ogas, Financial Coordinator for **New Chauncey Housing, Inc. (NCHI)**, a nonprofit housing coordinator for the City of West Lafayette, requested \$100,000. The organization's goal is to increase home ownership by creating sustainable, quality, affordable homes for low to moderate income persons while preserving the historic near-campus neighborhood. NCHI increases home ownership by offering down payment assistance to eligible persons who would be otherwise unable to purchase a home. The Emergency Repair Assistance program assists elderly and disabled persons with home repairs so they can remain and live independently in their homes. Repairs are often made in coordination with S.H.A.R.P. (Senior Housing Assistance Repair Program). The Homebuyer Assistance Program and the Emergency Repair Program serves eligible persons citywide.

6. Joyce Fasani, Shelter Director for **Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM)** requested \$7,000 for the **Emergency Homeless Shelter**. The shelter is located at 525 N. 4th Street in Lafayette. The shelter provides 44 beds a night, a dinner, a light breakfast, hot showers, and clean linens. The shelter is open 365 nights a year. In 2012, 606 clients were served of which 246 individuals self-reported one or more mental or physical disability and 42 of those were veterans. Total bed nights provided for 11,613 people. 443 individuals stayed 30 days or less with an average stay of 19 nights. Over 51% of those that stayed long enough exited to a positive outcome. All guests utilizing the shelter are required to participate in case management which evaluates their present situation, future goals and required services. It is estimated that approximately 500 West Lafayette residents will utilize LUM services.

7. **The Center @ Jenks Rest** (Tippecanoe Council on Aging), Executive Director, Catherine Moran, requested \$4,000 for the **Care-A-Van Transportation Program**. The Care-A-Van program is a door-through-door assisted transportation service for seniors 60 years and older and disabled adults 18 years and older in Tippecanoe County. Rides to medical appointments, pharmacies, congregate meal sites, grocery stores and social service agencies are provided. There is no charge for the service, although donations are accepted. Donations have declined in 2012 therefore service has been reduced to three days a week. In 2013, it is anticipated that 30 West Lafayette residents will be served. A volunteer driving program is being considered which will allow more people to be served with less money. Care-A-Van is the only donation-based transportation service in Tippecanoe County.

8. **YWCA - Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (DVIPP)** Director Jasmine Dowd requested \$6,000 for their 24-hour shelter which serves women and minor children who are victims of domestic violence. While working towards its main objective of combating domestic violence, DVIPP works with clients towards self-sufficiency while providing safe, secure emergency shelter to domestic violence victims and their minor children 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The 24 bed shelter has been over capacity for more than a year. While in shelter, victims receive food, clothing, hygienic products, as well as backpacks, school clothing and supplies for children. It is anticipated that 22 West Lafayette adults will be served in 2013. The YWCA DVIPP is the only domestic violence shelter in a six county service area.

9. Rick Mummey for **Lafayette Transitional Housing Center** requested \$7,000 for the **Family and Singles Transitional Housing Program** which operates transitional housing programs for singles and families with children. Both programs are designed to be a stepping stone between homelessness and permanent housing. On average 90% of the people who complete the program leave permanently housed and employed. In 2012, of the 14 families that completed the program, 93% left with permanent housing and income and in the singles program, 93% left with permanent housing and 88% had income.

10. Rick Mummey for **Lafayette Transitional Housing Center** requested \$5,000 for the **Supportive Services Program** which is the point of entry into the Lafayette Transitional Housing program. The Supportive Services Program includes onsite services at the

Howarth Center which include showers, laundry facilities, meals, a client choice food pantry, clothing room, daytime sleeping area, mail/phone, lockers and a computer lab. Three meals a day are served. Two full-time case managers are on site along with one outreach case manager at the Mental Health America of Tippecanoe County Day Shelter. The main goal of the Supportive Services Program is to provide the needed services that will enable the homeless to not only become housed, but to remain housed. Approximately 200 West Lafayette residents are estimated to be served in 2013.

11. **Mental Health America of Tippecanoe County** submitted a request for funding for the **MHA Day Shelter and Supportive Housing Program** in the amount of \$8,500. Due to illness, Executive Officer Jennifer Flora left the meeting before making her public request. Dale Dixon summarized the work done at the shelter and encouraged the Advisory Board to reread the written request. The MHA Day Shelter provides shelter in a welcoming, non-threatening environment for local residents who are without homes and for individuals experiencing mental health challenges. The shelter is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., 365 days a year. Individuals are assisted to achieve their optimal level of self-sufficiency and stable housing. Clients are at or below 30% of the annual median income.

12. **Family Services, Inc.** CEO Rebecca Sullivan requested \$3,500 for the **Reliance Homecare Program**. The program assists frail and elderly individuals and persons with disabilities who are unable to perform routine daily living activities such as light housekeeping, laundry, grocery shopping, meal preparation, and bill paying. The main goal of the program is to enable clients to remain living independently in their own homes and to assist in maintaining a safe and healthy home environment. In 2012, West Lafayette residents received a total of 590.75 hours of service which is a 42.6% increase over 2011. The Home Care Program estimates 5 West Lafayette residents will be served. The program coordinator monitors services and meets weekly with the homemaker to review the client's condition and determine the need for any adjustment in services. Services are being expanded to also assist the temporarily disabled.

13. Director of Operations Kim Motuliak requested \$5,000 for **Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. Food Finders Food Bank** is a warehouse and distribution center that receives, sorts, stores, freezes and redistributes food from manufacturers, retail grocers, farmers, agricultural associations, gardeners, hunters, food drives, businesses, restaurants and through their parent organization, Feeding America. Food is received by large quantities and sorted, stored, repackaged, refrigerated, frozen and redistributed to 170 agencies in 16 counties in Mid-North Indiana. Food Finders employs 18 staff members and has a fleet of 5 trucks and 1 large van. More than 26,000 volunteer hours were utilized in 2012. The CDBG grant funds provide food to shelters that serve West Lafayette residents; Lafayette Urban Ministry, Lafayette Transitional Housing, Mental Health America and the YWCA. In 2012, these 4 agencies obtained 345,556 pounds of food (129,318 pounds more than 2011.) It is estimated that West Lafayette residents make up 11% of the clients served by these agencies. Food Finders anticipates an increased demand for food distribution in 2013.

14. **Riggs Community Health Center - Health Referral Services Program** requested \$2,500. No one from Riggs was present to make the request. Dale Dixon advised the Board to review their written request. The program provides emergency medication and specialty health care assistance for low income residents of West Lafayette.

15. **Tippecanoe County Child Care** Executive Director, Marilyn Redmon, requested \$7,950 for the **Early Care and Education Program**. The Early Care and Education Centers are open from 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and serve children from 6 weeks to 6 years of age. The request is to help support the sliding fee scale which is offered to families with low to moderate incomes. The sliding fee scales help support the numerous families that fall into the gap of their income being too high to qualify for federal funding but too low to afford the full cost of care. Of the 233 children enrolled in December 2012 84.5% or 197 children were in the low to moderate income level, 60.5% received federal funding assistance to help pay for child care and 34% received reduced child care fees through Tippecanoe County Child Care's sliding fee scale. The anticipated number of West Lafayette residents to be served in 2013 is 5 adults. Previous beneficiary reports reflected the total number of family members.

Representatives from the various agencies requesting funding answered questions from the Advisory Board. Dale Dixon commented the total amount of the requests of \$56,450 is less than the estimated maximum allowable funding of \$57,382.

Advisory Board Guidance

Members of the Advisory Board and Common Council were given ratings sheets to rank each proposal and suggest an amount of funding for each project. Dale Dixon reviewed the format of the ratings sheets and requested completed forms be returned to the Department of Development no later than Wednesday, February 20 by 4:30 p.m.

The next public hearing will be Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at which time funding amounts for each project will be announced. All allocations must be approved by the Advisory Board. The Board members were advised to make their recommendations on the anticipated amount of funding. If there is any variance greater than 5%, the Advisory Board may reconvene to discuss the distribution.

Public Comment

Public comment was requested. There were no additional comments or questions from the board or the public. There was no further business.

Richard Shockley moved to adjourn. Monica Waters seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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